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Fund builds for Taiwan Lego trip

By NAFEESA SHAN

Pupils to fly out for robotics contest

Students from a Blackburn school are to travel to Taiwan to take part in an international Lego competition.

Blakewater College bosses have raised £13,500 in eight weeks to ensure its pupils can compete in the world Lego robotics contest.

Pupils, parents and staff have received donations from BAE, Blackburn with Darwen Neighbourhood Board, Twin Valley Homes, Blackburn College, and Select Medical, to help finance the trip.

They also raised £1,220 at a school fun day, and £1,500 bag packing at Asda.

Majid Ditta, who has co-ordinated the fundraising, said the trip to Taiwan would be one of the last big events the school will take part in before its closure to make way for the new East Blackburn Community School under the Building Schools for the Future scheme.

Plane tickets have been bought and the group of year seven pupils – Sahib Ali, 12, Sufyan Hassan, 12, Haajra Iqbal, 12, Mohsin Mayat, 12, Billy Maxwell, 11 and Bahiya Hussain, 12, are preparing for the competition on May 6.

Their robot, named Anabag, was programmed to perform commands and was built with four wheels, light sensors and working motors.

They impressed judges at Loughborough University in the national contest with their teamwork and technical abilities. They carried out all the work themselves, without teachers getting involved.

Mr Ditta said: "We are overwhelmed by the support we have received. We thought that we would not make this a reality. It was a tall order to ask anyone to raise just short of £14,000 within eight weeks, especially in the current economic climate.

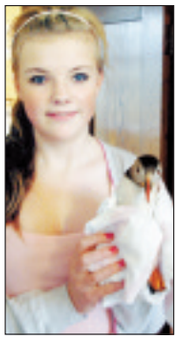
"It is the first time the college has gone into a competition of this calibre and it has put us on the map."

nshan@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk

Smoothie: Making food fun

Matthew Hunter shows Stephanie Hindle, nine, of Baxenden, how to make a smoothie and eat five fruit and vegetable portions a day during a children's Foodie Workshop at Accrington Town Hall for the Lancashire Food Festival

Animal lover's rare bird find



An animal lover made an unusual discovery when she found a puffin in a hedgerow near her home. Emma Bickerstaffe was taking her spaniel Lucy for a walk when she spotted the bird.

STORY 3

BLUE WONDER

The stage is set for the return of Colne's Great British R&B Festival marking the 21st anniversary of the UK's biggest blues festival.

Leisure 13

No place to hide for illegal parkers

A crackdown on parking problems in Blackburn led to 20 warnings being issued to drivers in just one hour in Mill Hill – and police have warned the blitz will go on.

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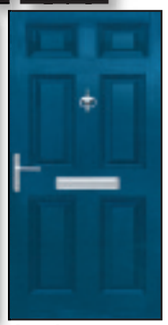

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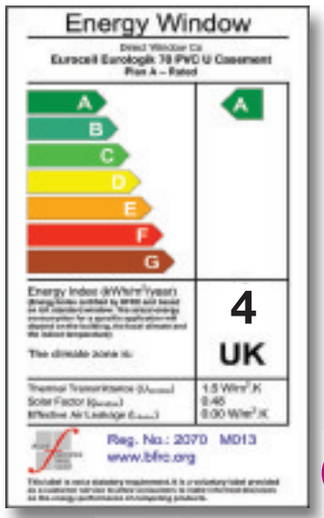

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Citizen In brief

Ashes site hope for cemetery

A dedicated ashes scattering site could be available for the first time in Darwen.

Friends of Darwen Cemetery want to create a flower garden for families to use.

Group secretary Rosemary Jackson said the first target was to clean up the litter: "Then we hope to develop a small, secluded circular area to the west of section C into a flower bed and an area where ashes can be scattered."

Showroom bid

The former Pump House pub in Whalley Banks, Blackburn, could be turned into a retail showroom and storage warehouse if plans are given the green light. The plans involve demolishing part of the housing quarters.

Car park plan

Teenage motorcyclists from Darwen will now be safer on the roads after completing additional road safety training.

The six boys volunteered to go on the course which was organised by Blackburn with Darwen Capita Symonds earlier this month.

Last flight for poorly puffin

SAD END: The puffin was ill when Emma, right, found it near her home

An animal lover made an unusual discovery when she found a puffin in a hedgerow near her home.

Teenager Emma Bickerstaffe was about to take her springer spaniel Lucy for a walk when she spotted the protected bird across the road from her home.

Emma tried to grab the puffin to ensure it was not hit by traffic passing but the disorentated bird made its way into the road.

Luckily cars started slowing down and one motorcyclist tried to help just seconds before Emma captured it.

She said: "I was surprised, I took a closer look and was astonished to see it was a puffin.

"When I told my mum and dad, they could not believe it either. I know a little about puffins and I know you don't expect them around here.

"The bird did not look injured, but could not fly. It was disorientated and tired.

"I rang the RSPCA up and they asked me if I was sure it was a puffin as it was really unusual to find one in East Lancashire."

Emma, of Roach Road, Samlesbury, kept the bird in a box with a blanket until the RSPCA arrived around 4pm on Friday.

The St Michael's CofE High School, Chorley, pupil said: "The RSPCA told me that the bird had probably come from as far away as North Wales and had got disorientated and tired. They had to contact someone else to find out where to take it and what to feed it on. The RSPCA officer told me it was a first for her to rescue a puffin."

The puffin was taken to Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre in Cheshire, but had to be put to sleep.

An RSPCA spokesman said the bird was 'severely emaciated', and that its condition deteriorated overnight.

Wildlife expert Ron Freethy said puffin sightings in Lancashire were almost unheard of. He said: "They are seabirds and it was probably on its way to one of the breeding colonies in North Wales.

"The puffin is not a very skillful pilot as it has short wings and a heavy body and it was probably blown off course and into Lancashire by a strong gust of wind."

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Boy heroes honoured

By EMMA CRUCES

Teenagers who helped catch the attacker of an 86-year-old woman have earned a police commendation and been honoured by the council.

Proud relatives of Callum Dent, Declan Blackwell and Lewis O'Toole, all 15, and Lewis's brother Josh, 13, looked on as Chief Superintendent Bob Eastwood gave each an award.

The boys helped Hamilton Street resident Margaret Slater after she was attacked by a masked, hammer-wielding burglar at her home. Jason Erskine, 38, of Exeter Street, Blackburn, was jailed for six years three months for the burglary.

The boys had been walking Declan's dog when they heard the pensioner's scream and saw Erskine running towards them, spilling stolen jewellery and letting his scarf slip from his face.

COMMENDED: Front, from left, Callum Dent, Lewis O'Toole, Josh O'Toole, Declan Blackwell. Back, the mayoress Maureen Pickup, Chief Supt Bob Eastwood, PC Liz Hurst, Sgt Mark Cruise, and Coun James Hirst

The boys went to Mrs Slater's aid, with jewellery Erskine had dropped, and took part in an ID parade.

The teenagers were also rewarded by the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn. Coun James Hirst and Maureen Pickup presented them with HMV vouchers and a badge of the borough's insignia at a ceremony at Blackburn Town Hall.

Mr Eastwood told them: "I don't give a commendation every day, it's got to be something exceptional. I think what you four did was exceptional and not only should your family and friends be proud of you, but Blackburn should be proud of you. You didn't have to do anything, but you saw something was wrong, returned stolen property and helped bring the offender to justice."

Lewis and Josh's father, Paul Jackson, said: "I'm really proud of them. It's not often you see teenage boys in this light and they deserve the praise."

Rescue centre in cat food plea

Moggies Cat Rescue centre, in Darwen, has appealed for donations of food. The centre, run by Maureen Savage (right) and which cares for up to 20 cats at any one time, said tins or sachets of cat food were always gratefully received, as were donations towards the huge vet bills which can be as high as £1,000 per month. For more details call 01254 708171.

Give blood

Blood donor sessions will take place in King George's Hall, Northgate, Blackburn, on April 20, from 2pm to 4pm, and from 5pm to 7.30pm.

Air concerns with police

The next Police and Communities Together, or PACT, meeting for Altham and Clayton-le-Moors will take place in the Neighbourhood Management Office, Arthur Street, Clayton-le-Moors, on May 5, from 6.30pm. Residents in the area are welcome to speak to officers about problems in the area.

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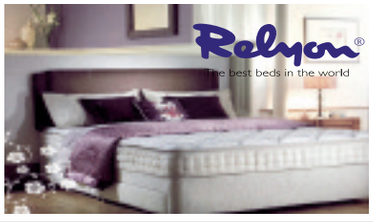

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New drinks order for family festival

By **CATHERINE PYE**

A tough new alcohol policy will give police extra powers to stop trouble brewing at Darwen Live.

In past years, drink-related problems, including vandalism of shops, have marred the event and led to a ban on music fans taking their own alcohol into the venue.

This year's two-day event at the end of May will be the first since a Designated Public Protection Order (DPPO) was brought in by the borough council.

The order means that police now have the power to require individuals to surrender alcohol outside the fenced-off venue areas in Darwen Market Square and Darwen Library Theatre, and if they fail to comply with the request they can be arrested.

Darwen town centre community beat manager PC Simon Harwood said: "If someone is outside the venue making their way through 24 cans of lager, now we have the power to arrest them if they fail to surrender the drinks to us.

"It will be at an officer's discretion. We're not party pooping, but nobody wants to be walking through drunks on the way in to the festival."

He said last year thousands of people attended, 17,000 pints were drunk and there were no arrests.

PC Harwood added: "We want to encourage a festival atmosphere for families and repeat the success of last year."

The town's Bar U scheme will also be rolled out to include the festival venues as it has been in two previous years.

It means that anyone banned from other town centre venues due to violence, drug taking or other offences, will not be allowed in.

There will be a beer tent in the festival site with alcohol sales will be monitored by the council.

catherine.pye@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk

FLASH BACK: Darwen Live 2008 was a peaceful event and featured Peter Tork of the Monkees

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Tippers ruin play time in alley

Residents have hit out at fly-tippers who have made a back alley a no-go area for children.

People living in Accrington Road, near Bank Lane, Blackburn said industrial waste along with rubbish and litter have been dumped near their homes.

One resident, mum-of-three Katherine Hall, said she was 'at the end of her tether' trying to resolve the issue.

She said: "I have two young children and I cannot let them play in the back alley because there is so much waste and rubbish.

"We live on a busy road so the back alley is a refuge for them.

"Now there is so much debris in the alley that it is totally out of bounds for them."

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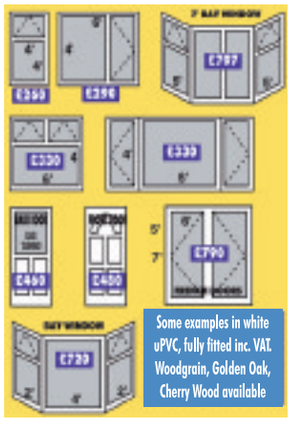

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Talks held on hospital road jams

By CHRIS HOPPER

Health bosses have held talks with highways officers and police about concerns over access to Royal Blackburn Hospital.

The area in Haslingden Road around the hospital is currently filling up with businesses moving into the Shadsworth and Evolution business parks.

And that is making even busier what is already one of Blackburn's busiest routes into the town centre from junction five of the M65.

Now bosses from the North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) have intervened following concerns that the increased traffic could make it more difficult for ambulances on emergency calls to get the hospital.

Talks have opened the possibility of Haslingden Road being widened and the installation of new signs to warn drivers about the hospital and ambulances.

John Moorhouse, operations manager at NWAS, said: "This is already a busy road, especially in rush hour.

"Last month the trust met with the council and the police to discuss possible ways to ease the impact of the increasing traffic."

It is understood that Capita Symonds, which manages roads on behalf of Blackburn with Darwen Council, has drawn up plans to alleviate congestion in Haslingden Road.

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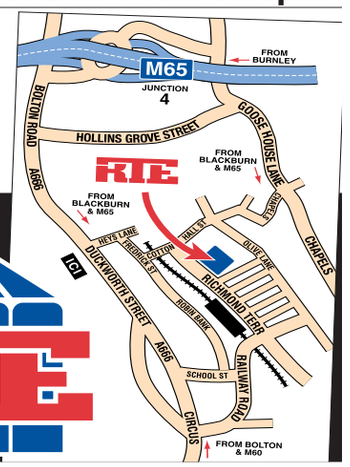

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Spring is time to get family healthy

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Spring is the ideal opportunity to give family health and wellbeing a boost for the months ahead.

We'll soon all be thinking of holidays, so now is a good time to look at ways to boost the family's energy levels and live a healthier lifestyle.

Here are a number of tips to help you on your way.

• Do something that makes you happy.
We've all had the experience of feeling down and tired, and then done something we really enjoyed and found it gave us a sudden boost of energy. People who are doing what they love will always find the energy, so if someone in the family is feeling tired, look at what they're doing.

• Increase your family's intake of green vegetables.
This may sound like a really boring option, but there is so much research showing the importance of green vegetables. After all, humans can't take energy from the sun in the same way that plants can, so we have to eat plants as a source of natural energy. Broccoli, spinach and kale are especially good.

• Ensure everyone gets plenty of sleep.
We all know the importance of good quality sleep, yet so few people actually make sure they really get enough sleep. And, its not just quantity, it's also quality.

• Learn to listen to your body.
So many of us abuse our bodies, don't rest when we need to rest, push ourselves to do more than we are really able to, and then we wonder why we feel tired.
If you want to have more energy, you must learn to keep your body in the best shape possible, and that means learning to listen to it. For example, if you get a headache, don't immediately take a pill, instead drink some water, get some fresh air, listen to your body's needs and the chances are it will go away.

• Encourage young and old to take some exercise.
Energy is created by movement. If our body is stagnant and not flowing, then our energy will be the same. Even just taking a brisk walk for thirty minutes three times a week can significantly increase our energy over time, and help us get on the pathway towards more intensive exercise.

• Spend time helping someone in need.
Very often we get so caught up in our own lives and our own problems that we end up going around in circles. Spending time helping someone else takes our focus away from that, and in the process can free up more of our energy and passion for life.

• Relax.
It's amazing how much energy we can spend with unnecessary worrying and thinking. The calmer our mind is, the less energy it is wasting. If you really want to accomplish everything you want to do, you need learn to do it in a calm way.

Calling all Mums, Dads and carers.....

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Not sure how to talk to your children or teenagers about alcohol and drugs?

Heard recent media stories and not sure what to believe?

Lifeline East Lancashire

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Blitz on parking

WARNING: PC Tori Joyce in Mill Hill

By **DAVID WATKINSON**

A crackdown on parking problems in Blackburn led to 20 warnings being issued to drivers in just one hour in Mill Hill.

Police said the on-going operation aims to improve safety around a zebra crossing and children's play area in the Chapel Street area.

PC Tori Joyce said that drivers have been parking in an 'appalling' manner and complaints from residents and local businesses had led to the crackdown.

After a period of educating drivers, PC Joyce said that fixed penalties would be issued to rogue motorists who continue to offend in the coming weeks.

She said: "Parking on zigzag lines is irresponsible and incredibly dangerous, particularly in this area as it is close to a children's playground.

"Over the coming weeks, we will be keeping a close eye on people who persistently park illegally and issuing them with warnings.

"One shopkeeper said he counted more than 40 cars parking illegally in one morning before giving up counting.

"I was there last Thursday and spotted three in the space of a minute and issued 20 warnings in an hour. Quite often it is people just popping in to shops but there are also people leaving the car there for hours.

"Many drivers with disabled badges also seem to think that they are allowed to park illegally and have been warned.

"Anyone who continues to park on zig zag lines could end up with a £60 and three points on their licence."

Anyone with information or concerns can contact police on 0845 125 3545 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Warning over new mail scam

People are being warned over a new mail scam that is on the resurgence in East Lancashire.

Trading Standards bosses said that several people have already lost thousands of pounds to the so-called 'probate' scams.

One business in Accrington was targeted this week with a letter addressed to the owner.

The letter claimed that a wealthy businessman of the same name had died in Hong Kong and there was a huge amount of cash available to claim.

It was sent to staff at a shop in Warner Street but has now been handed to the authorities.

Jim Potts (right), Lancashire's trading standards chief, said: "This type of scam is a significant problem in Lancashire and does seem to be on the resurgence again."

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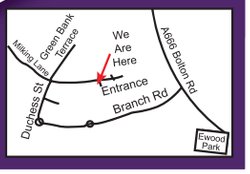

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CitizenTime

It's more good news for Russell

Russell Howard is one of the UK's most successful live comedians having played to 58,000 fans over nine nights on his recent UK arena tour. He also has two best-selling DVDs to his name. He returns to BBC Three this spring with a new series of Russell Howard's Good News.

60 SECONDS WITH ... RUSSELL HOWARD

ARE YOU NATURALLY QUITE POLITICALLY AWARE AND INTERESTED IN THE NEWS?
Not really – I got into it gradually. It was doing Mock The Week that made me more politically aware. I started taking more of an interest trawling through the papers. But that's a weird one, because it's not the things you would expect that make you mad. You get angry at the way things are presented rather than the way things actually are – the way some newspapers try and make people angry. I can't help but think the world would be a better place if a lot of them were burned.

YOUR SHOW ISN'T AS CYNICAL AS ITS COMPETITORS. ARE YOU CONSCIOUS OF BEING FIRST AND FOREMOST A COMEDY PROGRAMME?
Oh, absolutely. For all the things that make you angry, if you can't come up with jokes and you're just grunting about the Daily Mail, it's not exactly original. I like a nice mix of throwing rocks at things that deserve it, along with telling you a funny story.

IS YOUR FIRST LOVE STILL STAND-UP COMEDY?
I love what I'm doing now. I think you can do more with this than you can with stand-up, which is why I love it. You're creating a body of work and it's all go, go, go. With stand-up sometimes you can just fall back and perform the same hour or hour-and-a-half for a year.

What's on

theatre

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG — Palace Theatre, Manchester, Thursday, April 27 to Saturday, May 15.

COMEDIANS — Bolton Octagon, April 15 until May 8.

THE DARLING BUDS OF MAY — Burnley Garrick Club, Burnley Mechanics, May 19 to 22.

CAUGHT IN THE NET — Charter Theatre, Preston, Wednesday, May 5 to Saturday, May 8.

THE WINSLOW BOY — Thwaites Empire Theatre, Blackburn Drama Club, Wednesday, May 12 until Saturday, May 15.

gigs

FROM THE JAM — The Grand, Clitheroe, Saturday, April 17.

BOY GEORGE — Grand Theatre, Blackpool, Sunday, April 18.

ROLLERMANIA — Preston Guild Hall, Sunday, April 18.

ELKIE BROOKS — Lowry, Salford Quays, Monday, April 19.

MELODY GARDOT — Lowry, Salford Quays, Wednesday, April 21.

SALSA CELTICA — The Grand, Clitheroe, Wednesday, April 21.

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT — Manchester Academy, Thursday, April 22.

BOY GEORGE — Lowry, Salford Quays, Thursday, April 22.

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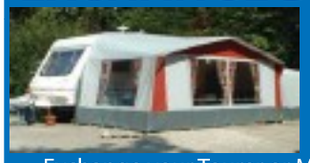

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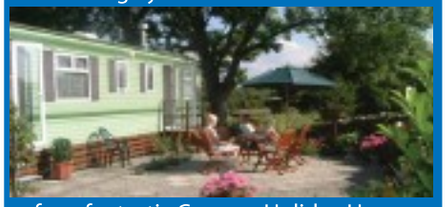

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Story of the blues

By **KATE TURNER**

The stage is set for the return of Colne's Great British R&B Festival marking the 21st anniversary of the UK's biggest blues festival.

A star-studded line-up of world-class artists has been announced for the four-day event on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The town will again be a Mecca for music lovers to soak up the atmosphere and watch world-renowned acts. The Great British R&B Festival is well established in both the UK and international festival calendar, with eight music venues including supporting roadhouse stages.

Organisers say this year's event, sponsored by Nelson firm Barnfield Construction, will bring more blues, more entertainment and more talent for the special anniversary.

Alison Goode, of Pendle Leisure Trust, said: "We are planning additional attractions to complement the eight official music venues such as a fairground, street entertainers, continental market and official street buskers to add to the street atmosphere.

"The first festival started off as just one venue, the Muni, and as the reputation grew additional venues and stages were added such as the British Stage at Pendle Leisure Centre."

This year's International Stage features performances from the likes of Fleetwood Mac's Peter Green and fellow British R&B veteran Georgie Fame. There are also appearances from Sandi Thom who had a hit with "I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker (With Flowers in My Hair) and Texas based blues-rock band Omar and The Howlers.

On Friday the festival kicks off with a rock feel with sets from The Hamsters, Dr Feelgood, and Eddie & The Hot Rods all on The International Stage, with performances from 20-plus acts over the following three days. The British Stage sees performances from blues guitarist Sean Webster, Chantel McGregor and The Hitchers, with the full line-up yet to be confirmed.

New for this year will be the introduction of the Jessica Foxley Stage, in memory of the 21-year-old Colne Muni box office worker and budding singer who died last summer. Auditions are under way to select a handful of local R&B bands to showcase.

INTERNATIONAL STAGE: Peter Green

Cinema round-up

WHIP IT! (12A) Tomboy teen, Bliss Cavendar (Ellen Page), of sleepy Bodeen, Texas, wants to join a roller team as Babe Ruthless while her mother is hoping she'll be the next beauty queen.

SHELTER (15) Psychiatrist Dr Cara Jessup (Julianne Moore) has a new patient, Adam (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), whose personality disorder gradually reveals how dangerous he is.

CLASH OF THE TITANS (12A) As a baby, Perseus (Sam Worthington) is rescued by a fisherman Spyros (Pete Postlethwaite), unaware that he is actually the demi-god son of Zeus (Liam Neeson).

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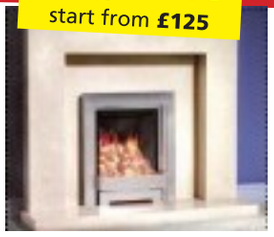

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Hours: 37 per week
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For an application pack ring (01254) 357980, fax (01254) 395371 or write to: Sure Start Hyndburn, The Park Child & Family Centre Norfolk Grove, Church, Accrington BB5 4RY. Please note CVs will not be accepted and if included with your application, will be removed before the selection process.

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2008 08 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Sxi 3door Black	£8,297
2010 10 Reg Fiat 500 Pop White	£8,500
2007 57 Reg Ford Focus Ghia 1.6 (115) 5dr Silver	£8,678
2008 08 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.8 SRi 5 DR with exterior pack Silver	£8,787
2006 56 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.9CDTI Sri 3dr Silver	£8,913
2005 55 Reg Alfa GT Diesel Coupe 1.9Jtd Black	£8,971
2008 58 Reg VW Golf 1.9s Tdi 5dr Black	£10,427

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FIAT

This advertisement replaces all previously advertised offers. Models shown for illustration purposes only.

91960 C

LAVENDER HOTELS

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LEISURE - EVENTS
THE OLD MILL HOTEL & LEISURE CLUB

LEISURE

APRIL OFFER

Join The Old Mill Hotel & Leisure Club during the month of April and recieve upto £60* of Love 2 Shop gift vouchers.

*Amount varies dependent on type of membership, offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

EVENTS

FRIDAY 30th APRIL

With more six-packs than your local off-licence, the Oak's famous Ladies Nights will really test your blood pressure!

£19.95* per person

***includes delicious 4 course meal and DJ 'till late**

The Oaks Hotel & Leisure Club
Colne Road, Reedley, Burnley, BB10 2LF. Tel: 01282-414141

FITZY'S BAR AT THE BEST WESTERN HIGHER TRAPP COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

WELCOME TO FITZY'S BAR AT THE BEST WESTERN HIGHER TRAPP COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

Here at the Best Western Higher Trapp Country House Hotel we aim to offer fine quality food, drink and service to our customers, at a fair price, whilst still keeping the high standard which has been expected of the hotel over the past years. Our menu and specials board, offer a wide range of dishes to suit all dietary needs, and each meal is prepared with due care and attention from our experienced chefs. The menu is based upon fresh seasonal produce from local suppliers.

Throughout your time with us in Fitzy's bar our friendly staff will be available and happy to help with any requests you may have from placing your food order, to ordering drinks at the bar. Be it a quiet family dinner, a romantic meal for two, or a birthday celebration: why not try our table d'hôte menu at **£17.50** to make your special occasion even more memorabe.

BLACK SHEEP BREWERY

FOOD SERVICE
MON - FRI: 12-2PM, 6.30-9.30PM
SAT/SUN/BANK HOLIDAY ALL DAY.

Fitzy's Bar is also renowned for it's selection of real ales with up to 3 choices always available.

The Best Western Higher Trapp Hotel
Trapp Lane, Simonstone, Nr. Burnley, BB12 7QW. Tel: 01282-772781

Lancashire Black Police Association

Charity Dinner

AsianImage — Sponsored by Asian Image - part of the Lancashire Telegraph Group — Telegraph

The Lancashire Black Police Association's Annual Charity Dinner is now in its seventh year.

The aim of the evening is to raise funds for local charities through an evening of entertainment, a raffle and an auction.

This year's chosen charities are Pendleside Hospice and Blackburn & District Kidney Support Group.

Our successful events have so far raised over £20,000. We hope you will can join us and lend your support for these very worthwhile causes.

Date: **5th June 2010**
Time: From 6.30pm
Venue: Blackburn Rovers Football Club
Cost: Table of 10: £300+vat
Individuals: £30 each
Special Guest: **Ranvir Singh**

Programme for the evening:

6.30pm	Drinks & Canapé reception
6.55pm	Welcome Ranvir Singh
7.00pm	Dinner served Live Music by Rob Flanagan
8.15pm	Comfort break
8.30pm	Auction /Raffle & Awards Ceremony
9.10pm	Vote of thanks (LBPA Chair)
9.15pm	Further Entertainment by Ambrose Entertainment & Rob Flanagan
Midnight	Close/carriages

Sponsorship Package:

Silver

- ★ Display Stand on the night
- ★ Table for 10 people

Cost: £500

For more information on sponsorship packages and to book tickets for the dinner, please contact:
Anisa Shaikh on 01772 412441.

Lancashire Constabulary — police and communities together

CHAMBER of COMMERCE East Lancashire